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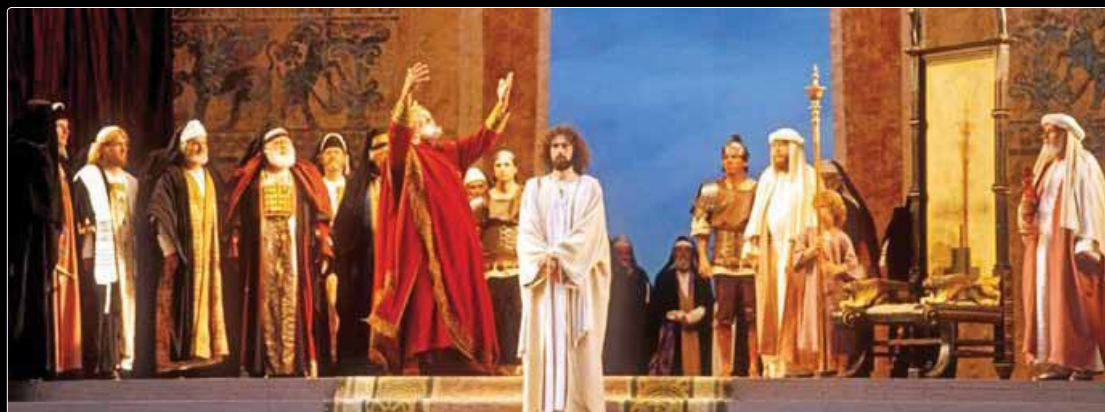
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*Shown in front
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Mesa Regional Family History Center

offers a great **TIME**
option for

TRAVEL

this summer

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

With the current economic crunch and rising gas prices, many Arizona families are looking for alternatives to the sometimes costly summer vacations. For a “stay-cation” that offers an exciting adventure of discovery and a sense of traveling back in time, consider using the summer break to get in touch with your roots or trace your family history.

For a little time-travel this summer, the Mesa Regional Family History Center

(MRFHC) is an excellent place to start.

The MRFHC, just across the street to the east of the Mesa Temple Visitors’ Center, is well-equipped with more than 150 trained “guides”—missionaries who are called to assist the more than 30,000 patrons who visit the Center each year. Many of the missionaries—like Sister Jean Morgan whose service at the Mesa center spans 36 years—are seasoned genealogists and know just how to help those who are looking to get started or to make progress in tracing their family



Photo by Cecily Markland

At the Mesa Regional Family History Center, there are 130 computers in two computer labs and 45 patron stations, where individuals have access to the Church’s new.familysearch.org as well as several privately owned sites that are typically fee-based, but can be used free at the center.

lineage.

Of the 2,400 Family History Centers in the Church, the Mesa Regional Family History Center is considered the second largest outside of Utah. Currently, Richard and Carma Heywood, of Tempe, serve as the Directors of the MRFHC. A private, non-circulating branch of the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, the Mesa center is one of only 13 of the “major” centers, where patrons have free access to Ancestry.com, Foot-Note, World Vital Records, Heritage Quest, and

other for-fee subscription sites.

“We also have access to the Church’s databases—familysearch.org and new.familysearch.org—as anyone does, but the advantage of coming in here is that a Family History consultant can guide and direct you,” says Elder Steve Packer, who is a member of the Greenfield Ward, Mountain View Stake, and has served as a Family History Center missionary for more than a year and a half.

The center has 130 computers in two

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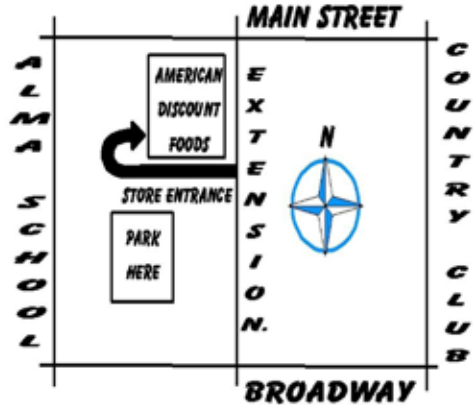


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Mesa Regional Family History Center
Continued from pg. 3

computer labs and 45 patron stations.

Elder Packer says that, in addition to the computer programs, visitors to the MRFHC have access to nearly 120,000 rolls of microfilm and more than 52,000 microfiche. The MRFHC also has state-of-the-art equipment, including 19 microfilm and fiche readers, copiers, printers and two Digital Imaging Systems—which can print a copy of any film or fiche image or save it to a floppy disk, CD or flash drive.

The Mesa Regional Family History Center also has more than 20,000 books, 700 commercial CDs and more than 500 maps to help patrons trace their family lines.

Many of the patrons who use the center are regular visitors.

Wayne Van Kirk, of the Galveston Ward, Chandler West Stake, has 36,000 names in his own family line that he is researching, but recently volunteered to work at the center to help others.

"I've learned so much since I've been here," Wayne says. "There are so many ways you can get information."

"Down here, they have everything, so you can come up with all kinds of information," he says.

Wayne works five days a week and one Saturday each month at the MRFHC and at least two nights a week at his stake's Family History Center. He says, in researching his own line, he particularly likes learning about "how people lived years ago, about their work, their

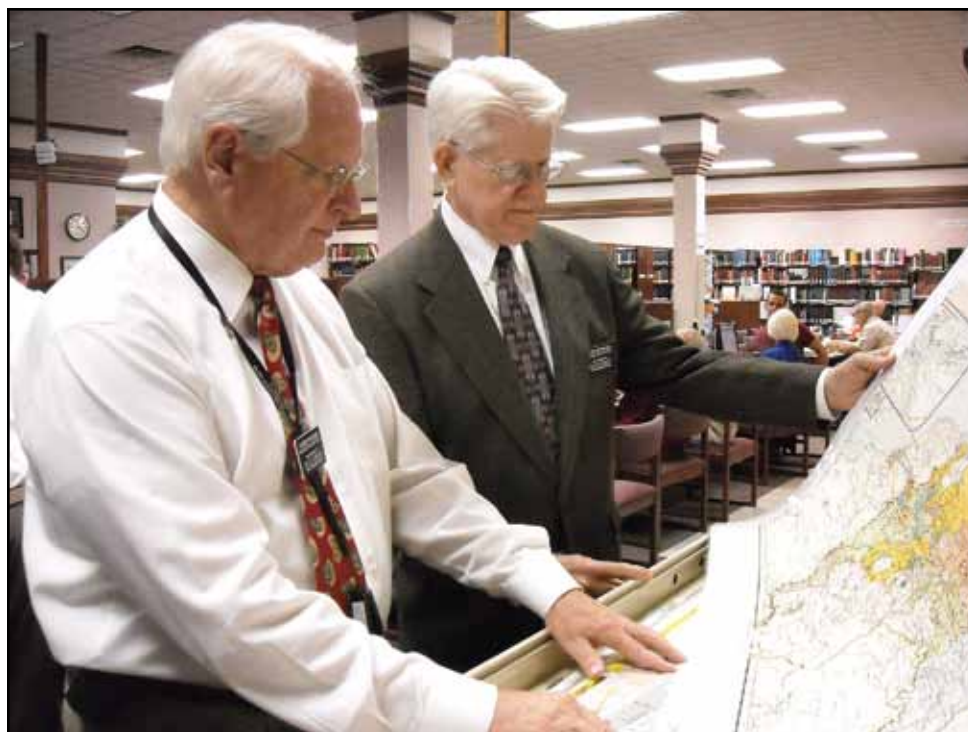


Photo by Cecily Markland

At the Mesa Regional Family History, Elder Steve Packer (r) and the center's Director Richard Heywood, examine one of the more than 500 maps included in the collection of materials housed at the center to help patrons trace their lineage.

lifestyles, and what life was like for them," so he focuses on gathering the family history stories and pictures from his direct line as well as clearing names for temple work.

"That makes it interesting to me," he says. "And, what I'm learning is that we're all brothers and sisters. We all tie back in somewhere along the line."

Jeff Skousen, of the Desert Valley Ward, Desert Ridge Stake, is another regular patron at the MRFHC.

"I go as often as I can—every chance

I get," he says. "What drives me there and makes me want to go is a sense of responsibility tugging at my heart all the time. These people depend on me. Their salvation is in my hands. I think about them constantly."

Jeff, whose specialty is Italian research, has helped others trace their roots as well, but feels a strong responsibility to his own family.

"If I don't do this work, they can't get back to their Heavenly Father. It's that simple," Jeff says. "It's what I promised

to do before, in the pre-earth life."

Along with those who have a great deal of experience, Elder Packer says, many who come are first-time visitors with very little knowledge of how to begin.

"We have a Beginner's Kit and we're able to show people, 'Here's how you get started,'" he says.

Families, youth groups and individuals are welcome to participate in a tour of the center or to attend one of the more than 90 classes and workshops that are offered each month. In addition to the scheduled classes, special classes or presentations to any group can be arranged.

"We also do presentations outside of the Center," Elder Packer says. "In the last year, we have done presentations—at least 50—to various groups throughout the Valley. Most of them are non-LDS groups, some genealogy clubs and especially snowbirds. The older generation is especially interested in family history," Elder Packer says.

"There's a real community service being provided here," he adds, noting that no donations are accepted and no proselytizing is done at the Mesa Regional Family History Center.

"Visitors are not going to be hit with doctrine if they come to the Family History Center. If they want to know more about the Church, they can go across the street to the Visitors' Center. We're here to do genealogy—to help patrons complete their genealogy," Elder Packer says.

He adds that the MRFHC provides

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Max & Jana Cox

Mesa Regional Family History Center
Continued from pg. 5

other types of outreach and support as well.

The Center is part of the international help line and call-in network for familysearch.org and the new.familysearch.org. Volunteers at the MRFHC who are called to work within this network are trained to help people from all over the world who call in with questions.

In another effort to help the community, the MRFHC is currently working in cooperation with the State of Arizona Vital Records Bureau to digitize the state's birth, marriage and death records.

"We're also conducting an outreach program to the various stakes in the area," says Elder Packer. "A letter was sent to the Stake Presidents announcing new.familysearch.org and we've since done presentations in 15 stakes. Director Heywood has also invited ward family history consultants to take an evening shift here to get an idea about what's available."

For a complete list of upcoming classes at the Mesa Regional Family History Center, visit the Web site at www.Mesarfhc.org. The site includes a wealth of other information, including links to other family history sites and other items of interest.

The address for the Mesa Regional Family History Center is 41 S. Hobson in Mesa. Summer hours at the MRFHC are Mondays and Fridays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. To schedule a tour or for other information, the MRFHC may be reached by calling 480-964-1200.

★ ★ ★ ★ *Speaker Crosses the* ★ ★ ★ ★
POLITICAL PLAINS

By Evelyn Hendrix
The Beehive

In a spacious, second-floor office at the Arizona capitol, dark paneling and plush furnishings underscore Kirk Adams' importance as one of the state's highest leaders. The contrast between the imposing office and the youthful Speaker of the House is striking. According to Adams, it's just plain humbling.

Just three years ago, Adams was appointed to fill a vacancy in the House of Representatives. He was elected to the same position the following November and re-elected in 2008. Three days later, he was elected Speaker of the House, a position he didn't aspire to.

"I'd never even been sure I would serve the full four two-year terms," he says. "But, I just wasn't satisfied with the way things were going here in the House." Adams was encouraged by senior legislators to run for leadership.

"And, here I am and now we're in the middle of this incredible, historic fiscal crisis," adds Adams.

He was sworn in at the start of the legislative session last January. In his speech, Adams paid tribute to the early pioneers who carved a thriving state out of the desert. He empathizes with those who were called by Brigham Young to do the seemingly impossible.

"I used that example of pioneers, ranchers, farmers, miners and all the early Arizonans, because I think it's really apropos," explained Adams. "I

think that's an encouraging example to the legislators: things are hard, things are tough, but you're on the stage of history right now."

Adams' enthusiasm is tempered by the mountain of difficulties he faces at the capitol.

"We thought when we came into this session that things were bad, but they're far worse than we thought," he says. "We have a responsibility, a hard and difficult

one. Whatever the reason, at this point in time it has fallen upon us to make these hard choices. None of these are things that we do lightly or happily."

Some of those tough choices must be made as legislators craft a state budget.

"When your revenues don't match your expenditures, you fundamentally have a problem," Adams explains. "You have to make real reductions. It's not any

Continued on pg. 13



Photo courtesy of the Adams Family

Speaker of the House, Kirk Adams, also stays busy running his own business, serving in the church and spending time with his family, shown left to right, Dallin, Kirk (holding Ben), Glade, JaNae, Parker and Emma.



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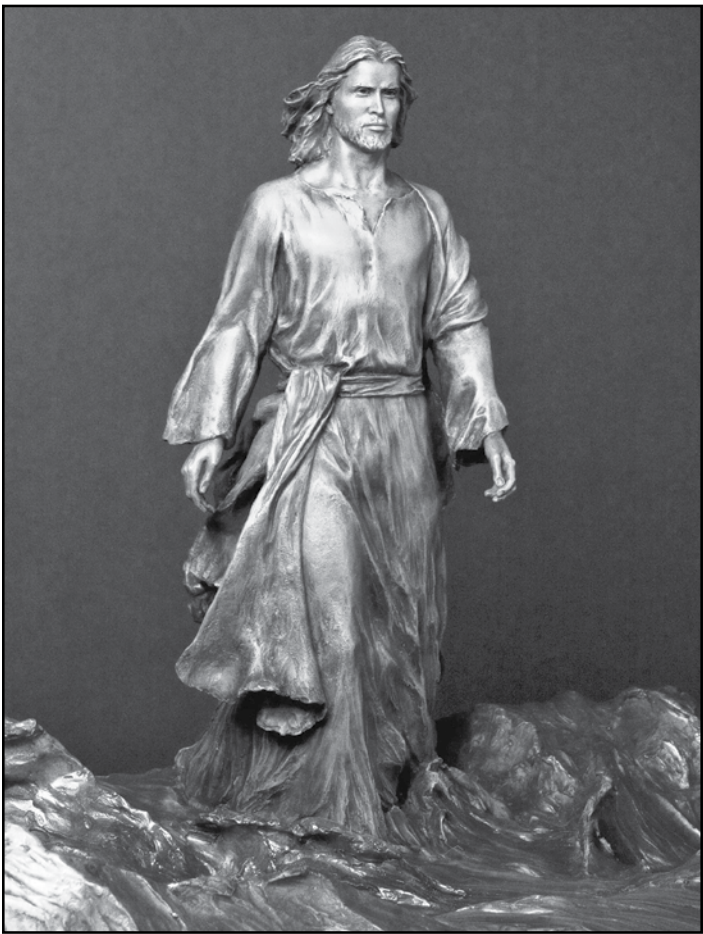


Photo courtesy of Angela Johnson

The sculpture by Angela Johnson, titled "It is I, Be Not Afraid," which depicts the Savior walking on the water, will be one of 20 scenes with a total of 50 life-sized figures in the sculpture garden at Thanksgiving Point in Utah.

Sculptor's dream becomes reality— Thanksgiving Point to showcase: LIGHT OF THE WORLD GARDEN

With a sculpting tool and clay, Angela Johnson creates beautiful, inspiring statues of the Savior while, at the same time, she molds her own life and the faith and testimony of others.

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Now, thanks to recent developments that mark the culmination of years of planning, Angela's influence and impact will be even more widespread.

It was 2003, when Angela first envisioned a garden setting with several life-sized statues portraying Christ's life, His miracles, His compassion and power to heal.

Angela, of the Allen Ranch Ward, Gilbert

Greenfield Stake, explains, "The over-arching reason I felt compelled to create this Light of the World Garden was to help people understand and see that Jesus Christ lives today and desires to heal us, teach us, guide us and save us right now, not just thousands of years ago."

She selected the scenes she wanted to

Continued on pg. 9

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Sculpter's Dream Becomes Reality Continued from pg. 8

portray, even began the arduous work of sculpting her detailed and life-like renditions of the Savior—but, though she searched and pondered for years, she wasn't able to settle on an ideal location for the garden.

Still, she sculpted. And, she shared.

Her collection of statues, an exhibit titled "The Healing Power of Jesus Christ," has been displayed in the Mesa Temple Visitors' Center, in St. George, Oakland and

Kirtland and was in Nauvoo in June. In each place, Angela has presented firesides to share her testimony of the Savior.

She also was recently to create a statue that will be marketed through Desert Bookstores.

Called "Come Unto Me," the 14-inch replica of the statue of Christ used at the opening of the Newport Beach Temple will be in bookstores in September.

Angela says she appreciates the opportunities to share her feelings for the Savior in word and in her artwork.

"I love the Lord," she says.

"He has been preparing me since I

"I love the Lord. He has been preparing me since I was a child to do this."

was a child to do this. My hope is that I can step out of the way and let people focus on Him. My supreme goal is to help people feel His love."

She adds, "Jesus Christ is the Son of God, the Savior of the World. His grace, love, mercy and sacrifice are the greatest gifts the world will ever know. His power to save and heal is beyond what we can understand. It is through faith in Him, obeying Him and following Him that we see His power manifested in our lives."

Still, as pleased as she has been to have opportunities to share her work, she knew the garden was her true mission.

Angela says, in May 2008, "I met Karen Ashton at a women's retreat." Karen is the owner of Thanksgiving Point in Lehi, Utah. "She expressed interest immediately as I shared my vision of a life-size sculpture garden," Angela says.

In the ensuing months, plans were solidified for a garden that will include 20 scenes, a total of 50 life-size sculptures. Angela is now living temporarily in Pleasant Grove, where she has a studio and is working on the first of the scenes for the garden.

"I could not have imagined a more perfect, ideal location other than the beautiful, spectacular gardens at Thanksgiving Point Gardens," she says.

Angela says as she works on the "enormous task of bringing the elements together to make this dream a reality," the ultimate goal will remain the same: "to bless the lives of many as they come to rest amidst the depictions of our Savior and strengthen their faith in Him as they ponder upon the Ministry of the Messiah."

To see Angela's sculptures and read about the progress of the garden, visit: www.iamthelightoftheworld.org.

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Gila Valley Temple Superintendent Shares Temple-Building Experiences

By Tina Scott
The Beehive

Bob and Vicky Lowder, of Clinton, Utah, are currently residing in Thatcher and attending the Thatcher Third Ward while Brother Lowder supervises the construction of Arizona's third temple—and the third temple Brother Lowder has helped build.

The Lowders make the 900-mile trip home to Clinton each month to visit with their seven children, 19 grandchildren and 26 great-grandchildren. "They all live within three miles of our home," says Vicky.

Brother Lowder, who has been in construction for 50 years, says that the new Arizona temple in the Gila Valley will be different than the others. Temples

in the past have been a stone exterior, but this will be concrete and will take less time to build.

"People won't know [it's concrete] just to look at it," says Bob. "It'll look like polished stone."

The 19,000 square-foot, single story temple will be one of the larger of the church's smaller temple designs. To make more room for the things that are done in the temple, all of the mechanical equipment will be on the roof. "To

explain the height of [the spire]," says Vicky, "if you were to go up an 11-story building and look out the window, you'd

be looking eye-to-eye with the angel Moroni."

Vicky Lowder, who used to stay home and care for their children while her husband traveled for work, has been able to accompany him for the last 11 years and has even had occasion to work next to him on the job site.

"I love it," says Sister Lowder.

The Lowders say they have seen the hand of the Lord guiding His work since their first experience in Hawaii. "We were supposed to build two buildings for a branch on the big island," recalls Brother Lowder. "But, it was on the wet side of the island and it rained and rained."

Unable to pour the concrete, they were told to go to Kona and help with the temple there. For seven weeks they made the 110-mile trip, twice a day.

"When we got the temple finished, President Hinckley dedicated it on a Sunday and on Monday there was no rain," says Bob, and they were able to pour the concrete on the other project. "That was, to us, probably our first temple miracle. There were others."

After helping to construct three stake centers, six chapels, and the temple in Hawaii, the Lowders were asked to help rebuild the Samoan temple that had burned down in 2003.

Along with the miracles, the Lowders say they have seen that Satan works hard to stop the construction. "You see the hand of the Lord in everything you do to overcome that influence," says Bob. "Everyday is a miracle just to see what happens during that day and the progress of the building."

He gives the Samoan temple as an example. "There was a 200-mile-an-hour cyclone coming right to the temple site," explains Brother Lowder. "Everyone was praying the temple would be spared. And it was. The hand of the Lord turned that storm away from the island and spared the temple. Of course, it came right back in its path and on down through the Pacific."

"It's special; it really is," says Sister Lowder of their experience. "You can't help but feel blessed and feel the miracles that are around—we've had some tremendous experiences." Brother Lowder agrees. "Of all the billions of people in the world, there are probably only 150 superintendents that have built temples. It's an extremely special experience that we're grateful to have."



Photo by Tina Scott

Bob and Vicky Lowder, of Clinton, Utah, will be living in Thatcher for the next year while he supervises the building of Arizona's third temple there in the Gila Valley.

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TRUE BLUE BYU FANS

lead BYU Alumni Association Chapter

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Tom and Tamara Chamberlain call themselves “true blue BYU fans” and, as such, they say they are thrilled to be taking the reins to lead the BYU Alumni Association chapter here in Arizona.

The Chamberlains have replaced Mark and Margaret Wright, who, they say, “did a fantastic job leading the chapter. We are very grateful for their hard work and dedication. They left a wonderful legacy that we hope to carry on.”

Tom and Tamara, members of the Vintage Ranch Ward, Gilbert Greenfield Stake, say they also are grateful for the participation of the alumni in the Valley.

“We feel the main role of our Alumni Association chapter is to cultivate the Spirit of the Y among alumni, friends and Church members,” they say. “It’s great for alumni to be involved in our organization so they can reconnect with other BYU alumni, create networking links, and educate others about the unique BYU experience.”

Tamara says there are plenty of ways to become involved.

“Alumni can become involved by attending alumni-sponsored activities. If they would like to join our board to help plan these activities, we certainly welcome that as well.”

She adds, “One of the main goals we have as we lead this organization is to expand the boundaries of our board. Right now we do not have any representatives on our board from cities such as Glendale, Maricopa, Phoenix, Scottsdale or Chandler. We welcome BYU Alumni from these areas who would like to participate.”

The Chamberlains point to several events and activities that the chapter will be sponsoring in the near future.

“On September 25 we will be co-hosting a fireside along with the McKay School of Education Alumni Chapter. It will be held at the Gilbert Greenfield Stake Center where CES speaker, Brad Wilcox, will be giving the address. We are very excited about this and look forward to hearing from him. It will be at 7 p.m. and is for adults only.”

The chapter will host a golf tournament sometime in the fall and, in early 2010, will hold a family event at a Phoenix Suns game. In March 2010, they will host the BYU Young Ambassadors.

“Alumni can stay informed about what our chapter is doing by receiving e-mail notifications of upcoming events

and reading the Bee-line,” says Tamara. (To sign up for the Bee-line, e-mail writeone@cox.net.)

Tom and Tamara say in their new role with the Alumni chapter, “We hope to give back what we received at BYU.”

While attending BYU, Tamara danced and toured with the International Folk Dancers from 1988 to 1992, and Tom toured with the Young Ambassadors from 1991 to 1993.

“We both try to keep that spirit alive,” says Tamara, noting that she takes clog-

ging classes in Mesa and loves to play the piano and Tom sings at concerts and events throughout the valley. Tamara is currently serving as the Primary music coordinator and Tom is a member of the High Council; and both are frequently called on to help with musical events and youth activities.

The Chamberlains are the parents of four children—Kohler, Kelsey, Spencer and Hailey.

Tom is an orthodontist and maintains two practices in the East Valley.



Photo by Sloan Photography

“True blue BYU fans” Tamara and Tom Chamberlain are the new leaders of BYU Alumni Association’s Arizona chapter.

(For more about his practices, see www.smilestraight.com.)

To learn about becoming involved with the BYU Alumni Association chapter, contact the Chamberlains at: tamara-tom@cox.net.

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Mesa Historical Museum Announces Summer Hours

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Savor the excitement of Cactus League baseball, the fun of the Wallace and Ladmo show, and the tradition of Mesa's pioneer past—all at the Mesa Historical Museum.

"Play Ball: The Cactus League Experience" exhibit opened in January, with exciting displays about the history and highlights of Spring Training in Arizona. Play Ball! has a dedicated Web site, at <http://www.playballexperience.com>.

Another exhibit, "Thanks for Tuning in: The Wallace and Ladmo Show," celebrates the 35-year run of this popular television show. According to the museum's newsletter, the exhibit will be given a facelift this summer.

Long-time favorite and the central permanent exhibit at the museum is "Searching for Mesa." Focusing on the pioneer families that settled the area, the exhibit features interesting displays

and several new interactive activities for children.

The Mesa Historical Museum is located at 2345 Horne (east of Country Club and north of McKellips) in Mesa. Summer hours are Tuesday through

Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors (over 65), \$3 for youth (3 to 12). Children under 3 and museum members are free. For groups of 10 or more, admission is \$3/person.

The museum has opportunities for

interns, volunteers and young men wanting to complete Eagle Scout projects. To learn more, visit www.mesahistoricalmuseum.org, e-mail the Curator of Education at kaia@mesahistoricalmuseum.org or call 480-835-7358.

Speaker Crosses the Plains Continued from pg. 7

different than what you do in a business or a household when income declines."

As difficult as the state's economy is, Adams has been through worse trials. Just five weeks before he entered the political arena, his toddler son died suddenly in an accident.

A photo of baby John hangs prominently in the speaker's office, reminding Adams to keep his priorities in perspective.

"Faith provides a personal infrastructure of support that allows you to maintain a long-term perspective. In other words, while the things that we do here are important and they have real relevance to people's lives, they are not eternal in nature. So, I think that's how my faith sort of informs me on a daily basis."

Adams often spends 14 to 16 hours a day at the capitol. He also owns an insurance agency and serves in the bishopric of the Highland Ward in Mesa's Mountain View Stake.

"It's definitely a team effort," says his wife, JaNae, who serves in the stake's Primary. "He has a calm personality, but he carries a heavy burden because the state's budget problem is so unique in its scope and affects so many people."

The Adams also are parents to five children: Glade, 12; Dallin, 11; Emma, 9; Ben, 7; and Parker, 18 months.

One of Kirk Adams' favorite sayings is, "This too shall pass." He's been saying that a lot lately.

"This is a temporary moment in the spectrum of things and if you can just keep that perspective, you can get through anything," says Adams. He applies that belief to any difficulty, just as the early pioneers did.

"You learn that if you push through, keep working at it and keep moving forward faithfully that you break through that wall eventually."



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KERRY BLAIR

receives Whitney Lifetime Achievement Award

By Marsha Ward
The Beehive

LDS author Kerry Blair, who lives in Central Arizona in the Prescott Stake, was honored recently with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Whitney Awards Academy.

The Whitneys acknowledge the best novels written by LDS authors in several categories, but also recognize the lifetime achievement of persons whose "bodies of works and tireless efforts have made a significant impact on the field of LDS popular fiction."

This year's honorees were Sister Blair and Orson Scott Card.

Sister Blair is the author of eight novels and a book of essays and has contributed to other compilations as well. She is a member of the "Six LDS Writers and a Frog" blog team.

While those are the bare facts, there is much more to Kerry Blair. She is a marvel of a woman, who unceasingly encourages other writers. She is a cheerleader, a source of inspiration and a tough, but merciful, critic.

As the Whitney Award committee prepared to present the lifetime achievement award, they solicited several LDS authors and individuals in the book

industry people to tell about their relationship with Kerry. Their comments were telling, describing the profound influence she has had in the LDS book market and the impact she has had on many LDS authors.

During the presentation of her award at a gala banquet on April 25 at the Marriott Hotel in Provo, Utah, several of the collected comments about her



Photo courtesy of Mark Cheney

Kerry Blair, of Prescott, who was recently honored by the Whitney Foundation with a Lifetime Achievement Award, is congratulated by her friend, Mark Cheney, of Oregon, at the award ceremony in Utah in April.

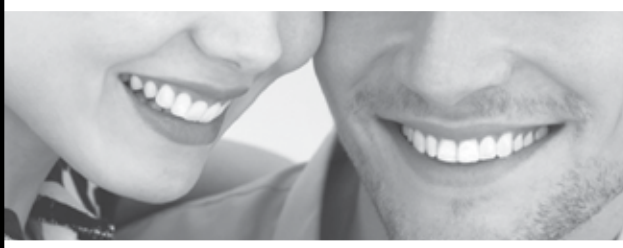
were shared. Among those comments was a statement from editor, Angela Eschler, who said, "Numerous authors finally got their shot because Kerry Blair recommended them to her editors. You won't find any venue helping promote LDS writers that Kerry isn't somehow selflessly involved in."

According to novelist Michele Ashman Bell, "Kerry has the capacity to make others feel like they are the most important person in the world. Even [while] enduring health challenges, she blessed the LDS market with her humor and insight."

Jennie Hansen, novelist, reviewer and recipient of

Continued on pg. 16

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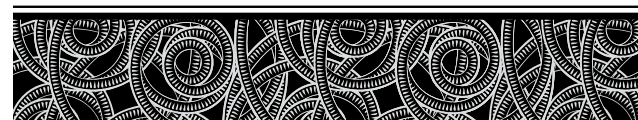
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Grandma Tea Party

By Jill B. Adair
The Beehive

Three-year-old Abby Bowles and her mother, Jackie, knew it was pretty special to have two grandmothers and three great-grandmothers living nearby, so as Mother's Day approached they decided to plan a special get-together.

On Mother's Day, Abby presented each of her grandmas with an invitations to a "tea" party the following Saturday.

"We wanted to make it a present for them," says Jackie of the Tempe Stake.

Starting with a few ideas—some from a magazine and others from her own creative thinking—the party grew into every little and "big" girl's dream: wrapping paper hats, scrapbook paper fans, little tables and chairs, and miniature treats



Photo courtesy of Jackie Bowles

Three-year-old Abby Bowles and her mother, Jackie, hosted a "Grandma's Tea Party" for Abby's five grandmothers who live nearby. At the party, from left to right, were Lou Hunt, Bertie Bowles, Shirley Bowles, Alura Nash, Abby, Jackie Bowles and Betty Thomasson.

including heart-shaped sandwiches and magic wands (pretzels dipped in white chocolate with sprinkles). The party included a take-home recipe book and jam jar lan-

golden apple tree and sew for hours. "I didn't like doing

terns, games, stories and of course, a tiny glass tea set to sip from.

"It was so sweet seeing little Abby in charge, pouring water like a big girl into the tiny cups that we drank from," says great-grandmother Alura Nash of Mesa, who came in her flowery party dress.

The grandmas were also invited to bring something for "show and tell" from their childhoods or relate a story from when they were little girls.

Sister Nash says she brought an old sewing basket she got one year for Christmas. She told of growing up in Fairview, Utah, where she would take her sewing basket, sit beneath a big, sweet

Continued on pg. 16

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Kerry Blair Receives Award Continued from pg. 14

the 2007 Lifetime Achievement Award, said, "Kerry's friendliness first impressed me—then her generosity, when she told customers about my book, not hers. I've been impressed by her work, encouragement of new writers, understanding, and compassion. Kerry can always make me laugh and count my blessings. Sometimes I count her twice."

"Kerry is an angel who believes that the creative gift is a gift from God," said 2007 Whitney finalist Gale Sears. "She gives us all a sense that we can do it, that this work is important, to never stop trying, to find an outlet for our voices."

Kerry took me under her wing when I was a fledgling, terrified writer, cheering me on."

Sister Blair's work includes her novels, *Mummy's the Word*, *Ghost of a Chance*, *This Just In*, *Digging up the Past*, *Closing In*, *The Heart Has Its Reasons*, *The Heart Only Knows*, and *The Heart Has Forever*. She has written a book of essays: *Counting Blessings*; and she contributed essays to two compilations: *By the Light of a Star* and *Of Infinite Worth*.

For more information on the Whitney Awards, visit www.whitneyawards.com. To learn more about Sister Blair and read samples of her writing, go to www.kerryblair.com.

Grandma Tea Party Continued from pg. 15

Tomboy things," she related, "but I sure got a lot of good use out of my sewing basket."

Other party attendees included great-grandmas Betty Thomasson of Gilbert and Bertie Bowles of Tempe and grandmas Shirley Bowles of Tempe and Lou Hunt of Mesa.

One brought an old Barbie doll with her original clothes still on, another brought her own treasured tea set, others shared memories.

Jackie says Abby's great-grandma Bertie likes to "collect" memories for gifts but this time they wanted to create one for her.

Bertie explains that she and her husband started asking their family to give them "memories" instead of presents a few years ago.

"We reached the age where we didn't need a lot of material gifts and some of our family didn't have the money for them anyway," she explains. "So we asked them to write down a memory they had—any kind, whether we were in it or not."

Bertie says the "collected" memories are kept in notebooks in her family room where they can be read by anyone who visits the house.

"They are wonderful," says Sister Bowles, "such a treasure."

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New CD convey's comforting message: "You're Worth it All"

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Recognizing the power that music has to lift and comfort, Michele Baer hopes her new album, "You're Worth it All," will do just that.

"Music has a spiritual power to comfort and lift in places of the heart that words alone can't," Michele says.

Her concern for friends who were struggling was the impetus for this album.

In an interview on Your LDS Radio, Michele tells how it began, saying, "It was painful listening to some of the things that had been happening to the women I love. I thought to myself, 'What is it that I can do to make a difference?' I felt very helpless. Then, the thought came to me that 'I sing and I do music and maybe there is something I could



"You're Worth it All," the album recently released by Michele Baer, includes 12 songs designed to bring comfort, peace and healing to those facing trials.

offer that would bring comfort and help to some of these women."

Michele, of the Thayer Park Ward, Mesa Mountain View Stake, first recorded a demo CD of 11 songs that she says were "more like Sacrament meeting songs," and used that to gather feedback from 100 women about which songs created the greatest sense of peace for them.

Michele later attended a songwriters'

Continued on pg. 27

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Mother of 11 answers *What Can Kids Do in the Summertime?* in her new book about summertime learning at home

Rachel Faas Trim
The Beehive

Lorraine Alldredge, local author and mother of 11, helps answer the age-old question, "What will we do this summer?" with a kid-tested program that strengthens the family, teaches life lessons to children, and won't break the family budget.

In her recently released book, *So, What Can Kids Do in the Summertime?—Keys to Practical Parenting During School Vacation*, Lorraine shares how to use summer vacation productively to encourage responsibility, develop talents, and celebrate accomplishments.

She says, "The vacation time between kindergarten and high school, if put together, represents nearly three years, all formative years for children."

Years ago, she and her husband, Tony, decided they wanted to use this time to cement core values. Recognizing how busy their growing family was during the school year, they saw summer vacation as the perfect time to focus on skills that would produce confident and capable children. The Summer Goals Program became a summer tradition in the Alldredge home.

"If you don't find blocks of time to

teach specific skills," says Lorraine, "the time just slips away."

She continues, "As a mother you are always praying for things that will help you to parent your children. The summer goals idea was an answer to my prayers. It was inspiration specifically for our family. Once I saw how it was helping my family, I wanted to share the idea with others."

Lorraine worked with her children to set goals in different areas: cleaning and caring for a home, meal preparation, musical performance, outside home maintenance and gardening, money management, and academic skills, such as reading and math.

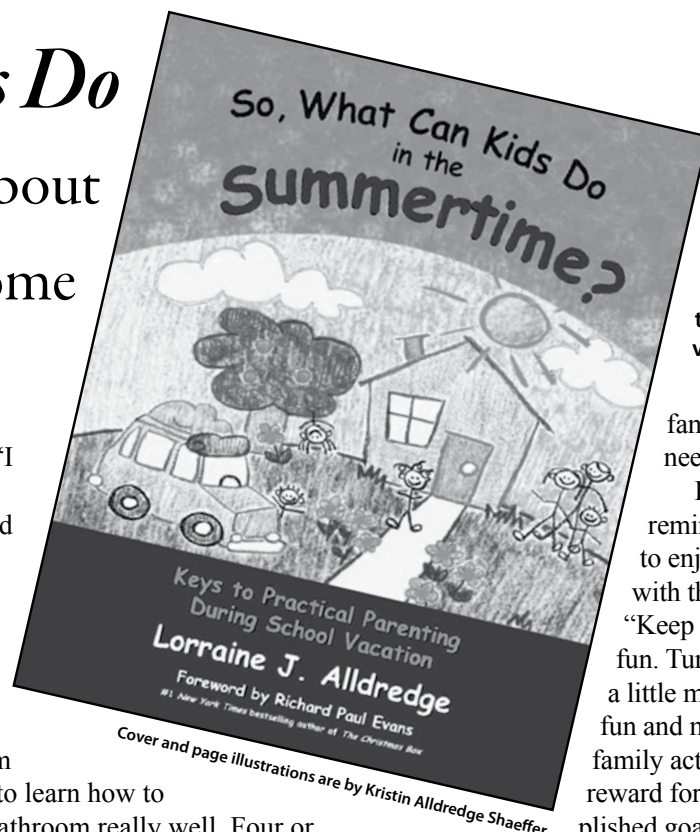
She assigned a reasonable "age of accomplishment" to each goal and also listed how many times that goal was to be practiced in the summer. For example, a nine year-old child might sweep and clean the porch three times.

"I wanted to make the goals challenging enough," she says, "but not set the children up for failure."

Mini-lessons proved to be the best way to teach her crew of learners. Her oldest daughter, Kristin, remembers

learning a new skill. "I was about 12 years old when the program began in our home," Kristin says. "Mom wanted us to learn how to clean the bathroom really well. Four or five of us older children crammed into the bathroom. She taught the steps of how to clean the bathroom. A card was posted nearby to remind us of the steps. She would inspect our work and we learned how to do it right. We wanted to earn our reward."

"This is not meant to take every moment of every day," says Lorraine. "Each child works on a few goals a day, leaving time for whatever activities your family is involved in. As the kids started to work at outside jobs and became more involved in sports and other activities, we modified the number of goals they were responsible for. The program is adjustable for your



Lorraine Alldredge's new book focuses on using school vacations to teach children valuable skills.

family size and needs."

Lorraine reminds parents to enjoy the time with their children. "Keep the learning fun. Turn off the TV a little more. Plan a fun and memorable family activity as the reward for accomplished goals." Lorraine

and Tony are members of Lehi Second Ward, Lehi Stake. In addition to their 11 children, they have 38 grandchildren.

Their daughter, Kristin Alldredge Shaeffer, is the illustrator of *So, What Can Kids Do in the Summertime?* and is the Webmaster of Lorraine's Web site. Kristin and her husband, Duncan, live in Lakeshore Ward, Tempe South Stake and have five children.

For more information, visit <http://www.sowhatcankidsdo.com/>. Books are available on the Web site, at Amazon.com, through the BYU Bookstore, and at local Deseret Bookstores.

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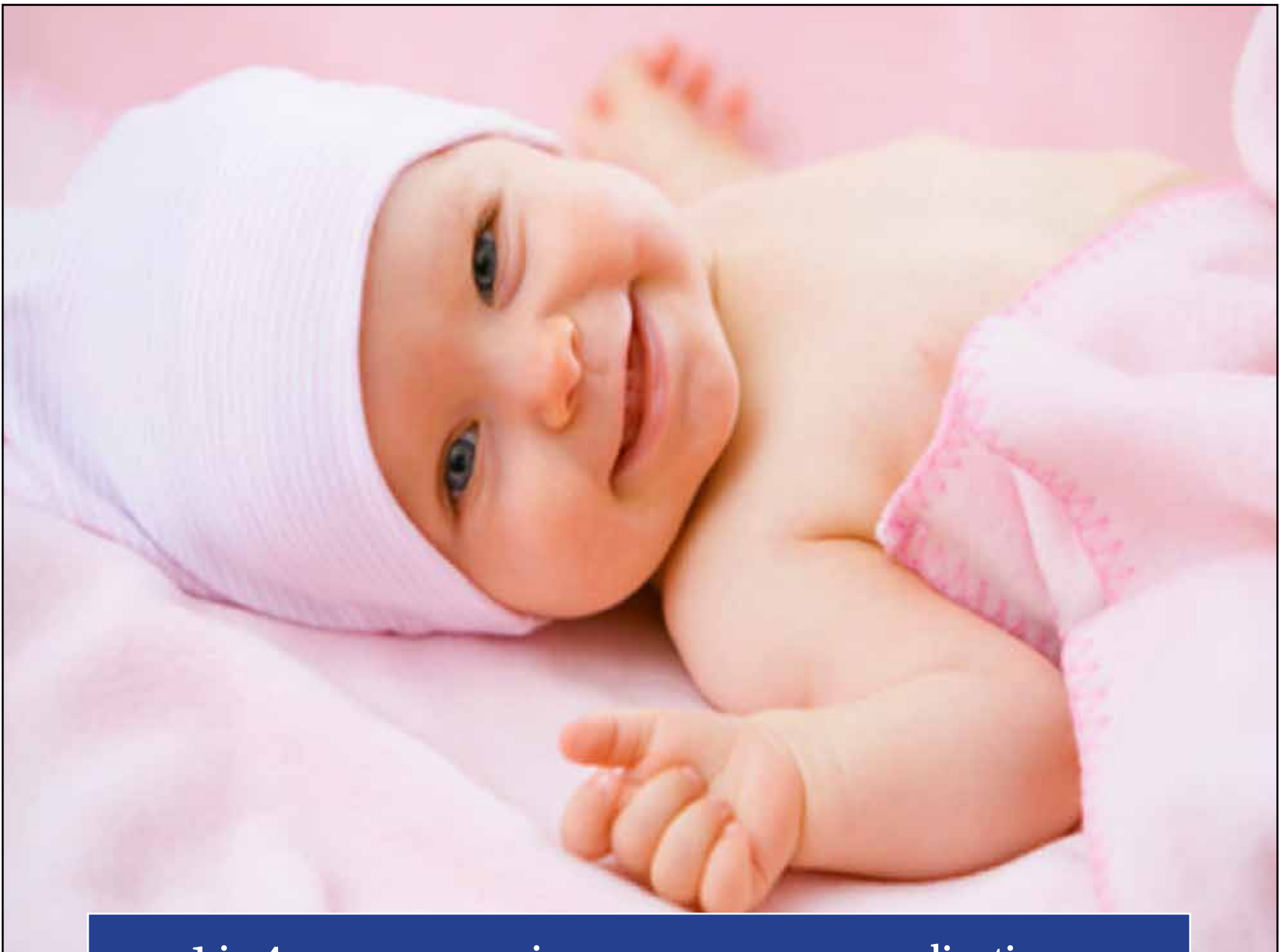
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You Are a Child of Mine
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Do You Hear It?
From This Moment
Duet with Freddie Ashby
I Watch You Sleeping
Breath of Heaven
Finally Home
The Prayer
Duet with George Dyer



Positive, contemporary and masterfully produced, Debbie West Coon's latest release, *You Are Loved*, will make your heart soar. Produced by Richard Talbot and arranged by Sam Cardon, *You Are Loved* features The City of Prague Philharmonic Orchestra and duets with Justin Williams, George Dyer, Freddie Ashby and Richard Talbot. **See the video on YouTube.com (search Debbie West Coon).**

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Rodeo Queen

By Pam Kitchen
The Beehive

Continues Family Tradition

Taryn Brady, a 20-year-old ASU student and member of the High Groves Single Adult Ward, Citrus Heights Stake, was recently named Miss Rodeo Arizona 2009.

With three older sisters and a grandmother who have been rodeo queens, Taryn had quite a bit of coaching for the pageant. Sisters Shanda, Marjon and Kelsey have held many rodeo titles over the past 12 years. They are the daughters of Pat and Julee Brady of the Avalon Ward in the Citrus Heights Stake.

"Taryn has been riding since she was two. Her heritage in the sport of rodeo goes back to her great-grandfather in Reno, Nevada. It's an honor for her to continue the equestrian legacy in our family and to remember the people it

represents," says Taryn's mother, Julee.

Taryn adds, "My favorite part of competing is that I'm carrying on this tradition. It's inherent to who I am. My whole family is excited and supportive."

The Brady family feels that rodeo is one of the few sports that support patriotism and respect for families. Opening prayers, the national anthem and the pledge of allegiance are held at each event. Taryn feels she can be an influence for good through rodeo.

"There are many opportunities for friendship and sharing our message of the gospel," she says.

The annual Miss Rodeo Arizona Pageant, which awards scholarships to top competitors, began in 1983. During this year's pageant, Taryn was required

to respond to questions on current events and to give an impromptu and a prepared speech. She also competed in formal wear and performed a choreographed number with the other contestants. Of course, horsemanship is an integral part of the Miss Rodeo competition. Taryn credits her horse, Cleo, with helping her to win. She has been riding Cleo for four years and says, "People often don't realize that horses have different personalities. Cleo is the perfect rodeo horse. She is



Photo by Charles Brooks

Taryn Brady, a member of the High Groves Single Adult Ward, was recently crowned Miss Rodeo Arizona 2009.

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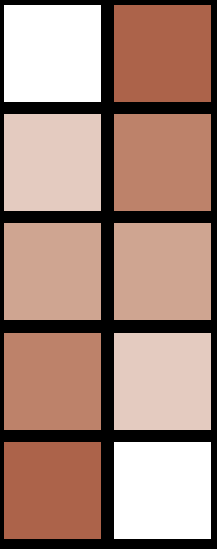
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a performer and likes to have everyone looking at her."

As this year's winner, Taryn will promote Arizona's western heritage at rodeos, parades, pageants, and community service events throughout the year. Her first official event as Miss Rodeo Arizona was the Payson Spring Rodeo, held May 15 and 16. Taryn will also participate in Prescott's Frontier Days on the 4th of July weekend. Her travels will then take her to Cheyenne, Wyoming, (the largest rodeo in the country) to the famous Calgary Stampede and to Reno, Nevada where she and her grandmother (Reno Rodeo queen in 1950) will be honored at a luncheon. In November, Taryn will represent Arizona in the Miss Rodeo America pageant at the National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Taryn says, "It's definitely going to be

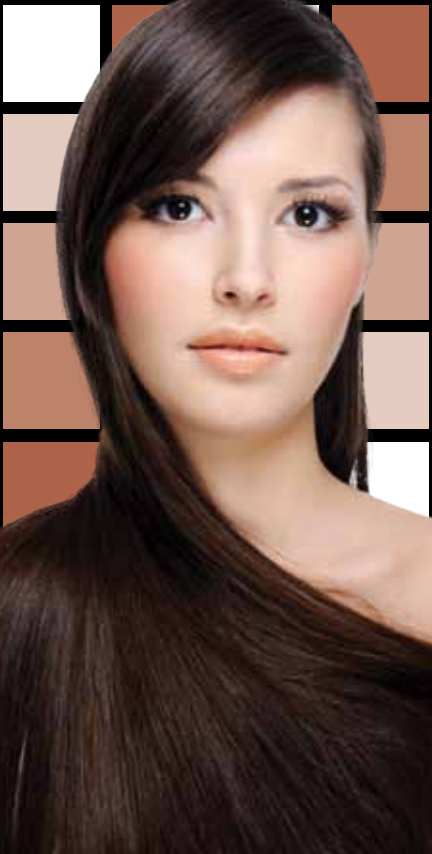
Continued on pg. 23



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"A Knight for a Princess" Four-Stake Prom

By Sarah Macdonald
The Beehive

A star-worthy dress, a stylin' tux, fancy shoes, the limo, pictures, a nice dinner—the list of what goes into Prom can be long and expensive. Not only that, but many LDS parents and teens don't like the idea of spending so much money on Prom, when the atmosphere may be uncomfortable and may not meet LDS standards.

Three years ago, teens in the Gilbert Greenfield Stake approached their leaders, asking about holding a wholesome, but still upscale, dance. The idea for the Spring Formal was born.

Stake leaders went all out to ensure that their youth would have a fun, safe dance to attend. The youth loved it and, the next year, invited even more of their friends from other stakes.

The dance's popularity was growing and, last year, Chandler Stake leaders asked the Gilbert Greenfield Stake if they could join forces for the 2009 Spring Formal. Soon the Chandler East and Queen Creek Chandler Heights stakes were involved, too.

A combined youth council chose "A Knight for a Princess" as the theme for this year's dance.

With youth from four stakes, a church cultural hall would no longer be large enough to hold the event. The Barney family of the Chandler East Stake offered one of the soccer fields at their indoor sports complex.

Thanks to the work of dedicated youth leaders, the soccer field was transformed into a Medieval castle, with a

working draw-bridge, a carriage, suits of armor, banners and enough foliage to make a forest. Leaders dressed in Medieval costumes served refreshments and greeted youth.

The Formal more-than met the expectations for affordability, with free food and pictures and an entry fee of just \$5 per person. The dance also maintained a quality environment and high standards, as high-cut dresses with long hemlines for girls and

respectful suits for boys were required. More than 530 teens from 22 stakes attended the Spring Formal, including 23 young people who aren't members of the



Courtesy of Spring Formal 2009 Committee

A group from the Gilbert Greenfield Stake, from left Janis Macdonald, Dallin Gillette, Morgan Rogers, Aaron Gillette, Lindsay Olsen and Stephen Anderson--were among the many LDS youth who participated in the Spring Formal 2009.

Continued on pg. 27

Rodeo Queen Continues Tradition Continued from pg. 22

exciting to compete at the national level. I'm really looking forward to meeting the other girls and making friends with them. We will spend seven days together in intense competition from morning to night."

Currently a student at ASU, majoring in broadcast journalism with a minor in geography, Taryn hopes to be a broadcast meteorologist one day. She has interned with the Arizona Republic and the Weather Center at Fox 10 News.

Taryn will continue to participate in another family tradition as a member of the non-profit group, Cowgirls Historical Foundation. Her mother and sisters also are members. With the group, Taryn has ridden in the prestigious Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, California, each of the last three years.

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New CD Conveys Comfort Continued from pg. 17

conference, and she continued to seek inspiration. She subsequently wrote several original songs to add to the album list. Still, friend and fellow musician, Richard Talbot encouraged her to create one more ballad.

"I didn't see why at first," Michele says, "but I said a prayer, asking Heavenly Father, 'If there's a message you want people to hear, please let me know.' I remember the words, 'You're worth it all,' came so strongly and I realized, that's what he wants us to know, that His sacrifice, His atonement was worth it to Him because of His love for us."

Within 15 minutes she had written the poem that became the album's title song.

"It was such a powerful song, it had to be the label," she says.

Michele says the album took two years to complete and "never would have happened without my husband, Sterling" and she's grateful for his support.

She's also thankful for lessons she learned along the ways as they worked through opposition to produce the album.

"It taught me, number one about patience and the Lord's timing." She also experienced, "powerful witnesses of the Lord's love for all of us." Those feelings were particularly strong when writing and recording, "He Will Forgive You."

"It overwhelmed me to feel just a glimpse of His love for us," she says. "Because He loves us, He will forgive us."

Other songs chosen for her album include several that are more "up songs," that convey a sense that "the Lord loves you, so get up and get going," Michele says, while others are about relationships and the fact that "we need each other."

Her new CD includes 12 songs, delivered in Michele's rich, warm tones—a voice that has been compared to Karen Carpenter. The album includes some duets with tenor Jordan Bluth, guitar by Michael Dowdle, and orchestral arrangements by Merrill Jenson.

Michele is known for two other albums and for many musical contributions, including performing in musical theater and benefit concerts, composing music for youth conferences, directing choirs, and participating as a speaker at "Especially for Youth."

She and Sterling have six children, who also love to sing.

With Sterling, Michele is an avid cyclist. She also serves as State Director of Family Leader Network and produces numerous charity events.

She hopes now that her album will do what it was intended to, to lift and comfort, especially during these trying times. And, especially, to help people see, "You're Worth it All."

Michele is "anxious to share the messages of these songs" at firesides and events. To schedule her, call 480-200-5966. Her CDs are available at LDS bookstores and for download through www.PositiveMusicandDownloads.com. She offers free lyrics, music listening samples and sheet music on her Web site: www.michelebaermusic.com.

Four Stake Prom Continued from pg. 18

Church.

Leaders were pleased with the results.

"Each year we have reviewed the decision and have asked our youth council how they feel about doing the Formal again, and they overwhelmingly ask us to please do it. I have had parents and leaders tell me how much they appreciate the fact that we are providing this opportunity for their youth," says Beverly Bentley, Gilbert Greenfield Stake Young

Women's President.

The Spring Formal is not meant to compete with the school's prom; in fact, leaders carefully chose the date to avoid conflict. It's simply an attempt to give youth another option.

"It was a great way to spend a night with friends and have a spectacular time," says Derek Furphy, a priest from the Chandler East Stake.

"The dance was so fun. There were a lot of kids there and it was decorated beautifully. I felt very comfortable with the way everyone danced and dressed,"

says Nicole Quaranta, a laurel from the Chandler Stake.

By the end of the night, Gilbert Greenfield Stake President Robert Hicken said he hoped to have the Barney Sports Complex booked for next year's Formal, and leaders began tentative plans for 2010 right away.

"Once again the Lord has magnified us to be able to do great things," said Gilbert Greenfield Stake Second Councilor Clark Tilley. "What a wonderful experience filled with a fun and wholesome atmosphere."



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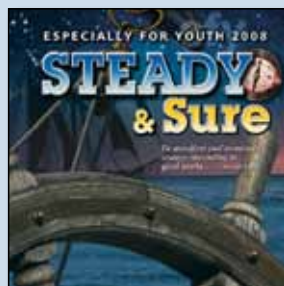
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Queen Creek Athlete Going Places...FAST

By Stacy Johnson
The Beehive

Sherod Hardt is not your typical teenager. When he isn't studying for school or spending time with his family, he is running around the town of Queen Creek, preparing for his next race. Sherod, of the San Tan Park Ward, Queen Creek Chandler Heights Stake, recently completed his junior year at Queen Creek High School, where he participates on the cross country and track teams. In the regional track meet in May, Sherod finished second in the 1600 meter and 800 meter races. At the state meet, he placed fourth in the 1600 meter,

talented runner, but I do think he is always the most determined even if he is always the smallest guy in the field of racers. He is definitely the guy with the biggest heart."

Sherod trains by running 55 to 65

miles each week. An average week will include a long tempo run, a track workout, recovery runs and a long run. His father adds, "He gets himself up at four in the morning, we don't. He never misses a workout."

Sherod is proud to be part of the most successful team at Queen Creek High. Both the girls' and boys' cross country and track teams won their region this year, the

Continued on pg. 32



Photo courtesy of the Hardt family

Queen Creek High School runner, Sherod Hardt, is setting records and accumulating honors in both cross country and track and is looking toward the Olympic trials in 2016.

fifth in the 800 meter and fourth in the 3200 meter.

Sherod comes from a family of runners, older sisters Kari and Whitney both received full ride scholarships to run for Arizona State University. Whitney has since graduated, while Kari is gearing up for her cross country season this fall, returning from an injury. Their parents, Ellie and Shaun Hardt, both full-time teachers, coach the cross country team and the distance runners for the track team at Queen Creek High School.

About coaching Sherod, his father says, "I don't think he is always the most

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A Single Story

by Michelle Thompson

"Marine Mormon"

My step-dad, who is not an LDS member, once said to me, "The Mormon church is like the Marine Corps of religion. It takes everything a person has to practice it right, but when they do, they become the best of what religion has to offer".

To some, the definition of a "Marine Mormon" is marrying young, having kids, and pushing through proudly to Celestial Glory. With that in mind, how can such a concept possibly apply to an LDS single with no prospects of Celestial anything in sight? There is no mate. There is no Family Forever. Hence, there is no Celestial Glory Right?

Even though it may sometimes feel like sweet Glory is slipping through your fingers as easily as hour glass sand, listening to poorly constructed fairy tails is not going to place you any closer to the Truth. The Lord doesn't make a plan and then exclude portions of his children from it. If that were the case, the plan wouldn't be called Celestial Glory, but instead be known as the great gift of Celestial Lottery.

When world affairs become uniquely aggressive, the military calls in the Marine Special Forces unit known as Recon. The expectations, requirements and training for a standard Marine is so rigorous, that only 155,000 Americans within the Armed Forces can call themselves Marines. Less than 3% of the 155,000 can call themselves Recon.

As Members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, we have been told, repeatedly, that in these tumultuous Latter Days the Lord has saved his elite spirits for the challenges ahead. Therefore, it is no mistake that his Spiritual Recon Unit has been saved for the most difficult and central of tasks of waiting righteously for the most perfect and honorable mate. The spirits that will be guided from this sacred union will be the greatest this planet will ever witness. Thus, it is without question that the leaders of these spirits must be of the finest quality.

The Marines have a motto, "Semper Fi" or Semper Fidelis, which is Latin for Always Faithful. Every Marine, former

and present, holds firmly to these beloved words. At all times and in all places, a Marine is Always Faithful to his family, his God and his country. A Marine never falters from a challenge, and unfailingly over comes fear in the face of danger. They are "The Few. The Proud." As LDS singles we too are the few and the proud, who have the added benefit of knowing

we are also Spiritual Recon. Our courage to see things through to the end will determine not only future blessings of hearth and home, but present rewards of character, compassion and charity. This earthly journey is about high risk and high reward. For those that can embrace the challenge, to them I say Semper Fi ad Deus! Be Always Faithful To The Lord!

Michelle's Bio:

In 1973, Michelle's parents moved to Gilbert, Arizona. Brought up in what she calls "Mayberry", Michelle has a great appreciation for the people and culture of that community, and accredits her ideals and anchored faith to the tender kinship of her youth. At the age of twelve, Michelle's parents divorced. It was through her mother's experiences that she began her early education of single life within the Church.

After many years of travel, Michelle returned to Arizona in 1998 to finish her education at Arizona State University, graduating with a degree in History. Through the kindness and love of her church family, Michelle remained active in the LDS

faith, and later became apart of the same singles program embraced by her mother many years earlier. As a much older single, Michelle's perspective of dating life in the Church grew with intrigue and interest. The differing ideals, behaviors, and cultural status quos of single vs. married, staggered her earlier understanding and fostered a new perspective, along with a sharp sense of humor.

Today, Michelle lives in Mesa, Arizona, and is still very much apart of the single's venue. Through her calling and friendships, she remains an active and passionate voice for LDS singles, living by the words: Semper Fi ad Deus!

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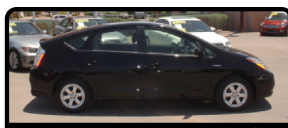
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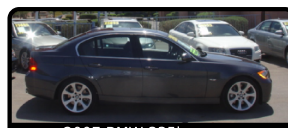
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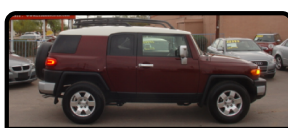
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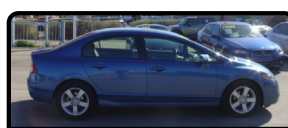
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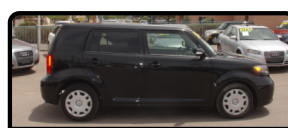
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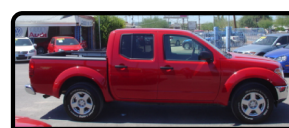
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Mortgage Company Provides Simple, Straightforward Solutions

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Don Carroll and Scott Merrill started LeBaron and Carroll Mortgage in May 2007, "right when everything in the mortgage business blew up," Scott says.

"We decided to wait and acclimate ourselves to the new market," Scott explains. So, for two years they operated under another mortgage company, until January of this year when they transi-

tioned and LeBaron and Carroll Mortgage officially opened.

Scott, who is a member of the Desert Vista Ward, Mesa Kimball East Stake, says some still question why they would

open a mortgage company in the worst downturn ever in the housing market.

"That's exactly why," Scott says, noting that their strong background and experience in the financial industry perfectly positions them to provide information customers need.

"We educate our customers so they can make the best choices, informed choices that will benefit them in the current economy and long-term as well."

LeBaron and Carroll Mortgage helps people who are upside down in their mortgages or behind on their payments. "We are doing a lot of refinancing with people taking advantage of the low interest rates. We're also helping with loan restructuring for individuals who need it and can't do it themselves."

Still, Scott says, "With historically low interest rates and the lowest prices in a decade on homes, the majority of our business is for purchases."

He explains, "There are plenty of programs out there for people to qualify. Programs for less-than-perfect credit; and low down and no-down payment options are still available."

"It's a great time to buy investment property," Scott says. In addition, a federal program offers first-time homebuyers an \$8,000 tax credit if they close on a home before December 1, 2009.

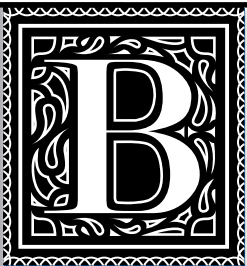
"Homebuyers can get that \$8,000 back as a refund in 2009. They don't have to wait," Scott explains, adding that a first-time homebuyer is considered to be someone who hasn't owned a primary residence in the last three years.

According to their Web site, "LeBaron and Carroll Mortgage is committed to helping you find the right mortgage product for your needs. We understand that every borrower is different, and we offer a variety of products to meet your individual requirements." Scott says, as part of that individual attention, "We consider our customers full financial plan and what their goals are. Then we integrate their mortgage into that plan."

The company has a dozen "high quality loan officers" and is licensed to handle both FHA and VA mortgages.

Scott says, "If people call, we can

Continued on pg. 35



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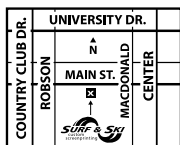
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YourLDSRadio streams upbeat, contemporary music for the LDS audience

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Using the Internet or iPhone, LDS listeners around the world are enjoying “streaming” upbeat, contemporary music aimed at the LDS audience, thanks to a new, online station called yourLDSradio.com.

Launched November 3, 2008, yourLDSradio.com has rapidly risen in popularity, now recognized as the number two online station in its genre (inspirational).

Listeners can access the station 24 hours a day, seven days a week and the station’s audience is growing at a rate of about 48 percent a week.

Arizona is among the top five states for numbers of listeners, with California, Utah, Tennessee and Maryland completing that list. But, listeners go beyond the United States, hailing from 54 countries, including Canada, France, Germany, the United Kingdom, Botswana, Brazil and Bulgaria.

YourLDSradio is part of the entire yourLDSneighborhood.com concept, brainchild of Salt Lake City entrepreneur, Gaylen Rust.

The station’s Program Director, Sam Payne, says yourLDSradio offers “a good mix of favorites,” including latter-day pop, instrumental selections and “grand old chestnuts, like Janice Kapp Perry’s ‘I’ll Build You a Rainbow’ and numbers from ‘Saturday’s Warrior.’”

In addition to promoting well-known favorites—particularly with the site’s “LDS Classics” button where people can hear a 24-hour stream—station executives have established “an engine for introducing new music into the world.”

“We want to give artists lots of opportunity for exposure and help introduce new artists into the culture they are trying to serve,” Sam says.

Along with being included in the playlist, new artists or established artists with new releases “have an opportunity to participate in a broadcast interview with Greg Hansen,” Sam says. (To hear Greg’s interview with Arizona artist, Michele Baer, visit: <http://ylds.com/segments/new-music-show.html>)

With Greg’s interviews, four other “on demand” programs provide new material every week. The programs vary from Sam Payne’s insightful “Radio Family Journal” to Rebecca Cressman’s

“Personal Touch” interviews with people making a difference. The most popular is “Peaceful Praise,” a weekly selection of sacred music.

YourLDSradio also is the gateway to PositiveMusicandDownloads.com, where downloads and CDs from more than 300

up and coming artists are available.

PositiveMusicandDownloads offers a variety of value-oriented options, with the “Deal of the Week,” the “Bargain Bin” and free downloads.

Sam says the response to yourLDSradio has been overwhelming.

“Boy, we’ve been so surprised. We went into this thinking that if sometime in the first year we’d have 30,000 listeners in a month, we’d be thrilled, but we’ve been reaching numbers beyond what we expected.”

Continued on pg. 35

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From the Editor's Desktop

By Cecily Markland

Seeing life from a more artistic perspective

I've never been much of an artist. Oh, I can paint a fairly decent word picture, but give me a paintbrush and a canvas and I'm completely out of my element. Unlike my sisters, whose pictures actually resemble the intended subject, I am more like one of those proverbial "can't draw a straight line" kind of people.

While I *can* hold my own in an occasional game of Pictionary, that's about as far as my artistic talents will take me.

Still, I appreciate great artwork and have learned amazing lessons from even a rudimentary study of art. Primary among those was a message I remember well that was taught by my fifth grade teacher. The topic was perspective and I remember her instructing us to draw a large "X" on the page to create a "vanishing point." Drawing along the lower legs of that "X," some of us then created an illustration of a road, or railroad tracks, a row of buildings or some other image that looked larger in the foreground and then disappeared into the horizon of the picture.

Amazing, really, that such a simple tool could help a student with extremely limited abilities create something that was at least recognizable.

I've since learned that true artists know much more about perspective. They use a much more sophisticated set of tools to convey the sense of proper proportion and perspective. I marvel at the balance and realism they generate.

I've learned, though, that life requires an entirely different set of tools and viewpoint. In fact, it's sometimes dangerous to use that "X" approach to fashion-

ing our perspective. If we allow things that are closest to loom the largest and to capture prominence in our lives, we can completely miss the balance and the true realism that come from an "eternal perspective."

In our lives, it helps us maintain equilibrium, and even joy, in the midst of immediate trials if we but remember that life's picture doesn't end at some "vanishing point."

Elder Neal A. Maxwell, in an article published in the "Liahona" magazine in 2001, reminded us to "plow forward in hope."

He acknowledged that living righteously may bring the "put downs" of the world, but said, "Therefore, desperately needed is longitudinal perspective, the hope of the gospel. Today's *put-down* is then placed in the perspective of our being *lifted up* tomorrow in God's plan of happiness."

He continued, "Those, who 'plow in hope' not only understand the law of the harvest but they also understand what growing seasons are all about. True, those with genuine hope may see their proximate circumstances shaken like a kaleidoscope at times, yet with the 'eye of faith' they still see divine design."

My skills along these lines are nearly as basic as my artistic capabilities; yet, more and more, I understand that if I can recognize His "divine design"—viewing life from an eternal perspective, filled with hope in Christ and belief in His loving plan for each of us—I am able to see a much more beautiful picture indeed.

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Queen Creek Athlete Going Places Continued from pg. 29

girls won state for track and boys came in third. Sherod says, "It makes you want to push yourself and others harder because we want to keep this tradition of winning for years to come."

Teammates say Sherod has a tremendous influence on his other team members. "Having Sherod on the team pushes me to be better because he proves that all you have to do to be really good is work really hard all the time," says teammate Vance Johnson. "When I asked him how he was going to come back from his mission and still run as fast as he does, all he had to say was 'The Lord will bless me.' To me, that's inspiring."

Sherod's straight As and remarkable speed have earned him several recruiting letters from UCLA, Yale, Princeton, BYU and more. He will turn 19 during his upcoming senior year and has very definite plans. As a senior next year, Sherod says his goal is to make it to nationals for cross country, run a 4:10 mile, and break nine minutes in the two mile.

Then, he says, "Right after I graduate I want to take a senior road trip with all my friends and then I plan on leaving for my mission."

As for college, his father says, "No matter how many universities want him, they will have to wait until he gets off his mission because that is definitely goal number one."

One thing is for sure. Sherod will be going places...fast.

Mortgage Company Provides Continued from pg. 32

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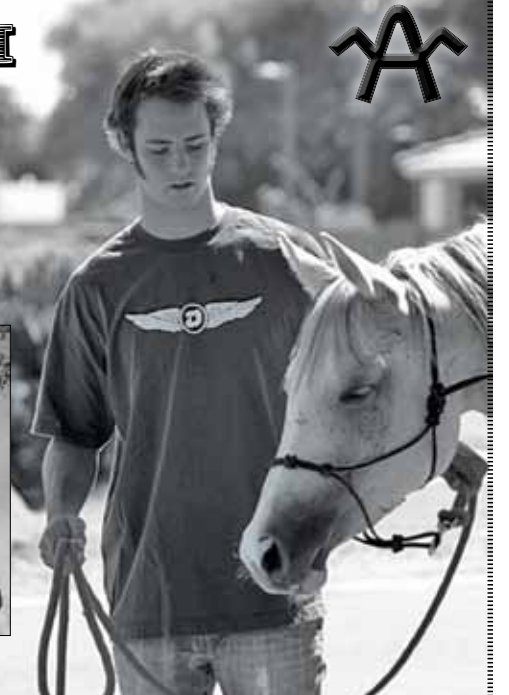
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Your LDS Radio Continued from pg. 33

More important to them than sheer numbers, however, are the many reports from people saying how yourLDSradio has touched them personally, Sam says.

In one piece of "fan" mail, John Egbert, a Master Sergeant in the U.S. Air Force, writes: "I learned of your services while at home in Sandy, Utah. After hearing some of the great messages, I quickly bookmarked you on my laptop. Now, I find myself on my sixth tour of duty in Afghanistan listening to this wonderful music. You have brought me back from the woes of war, into the light of the Gospel again and again. From the bottom of my heart I thank you and all your staff."

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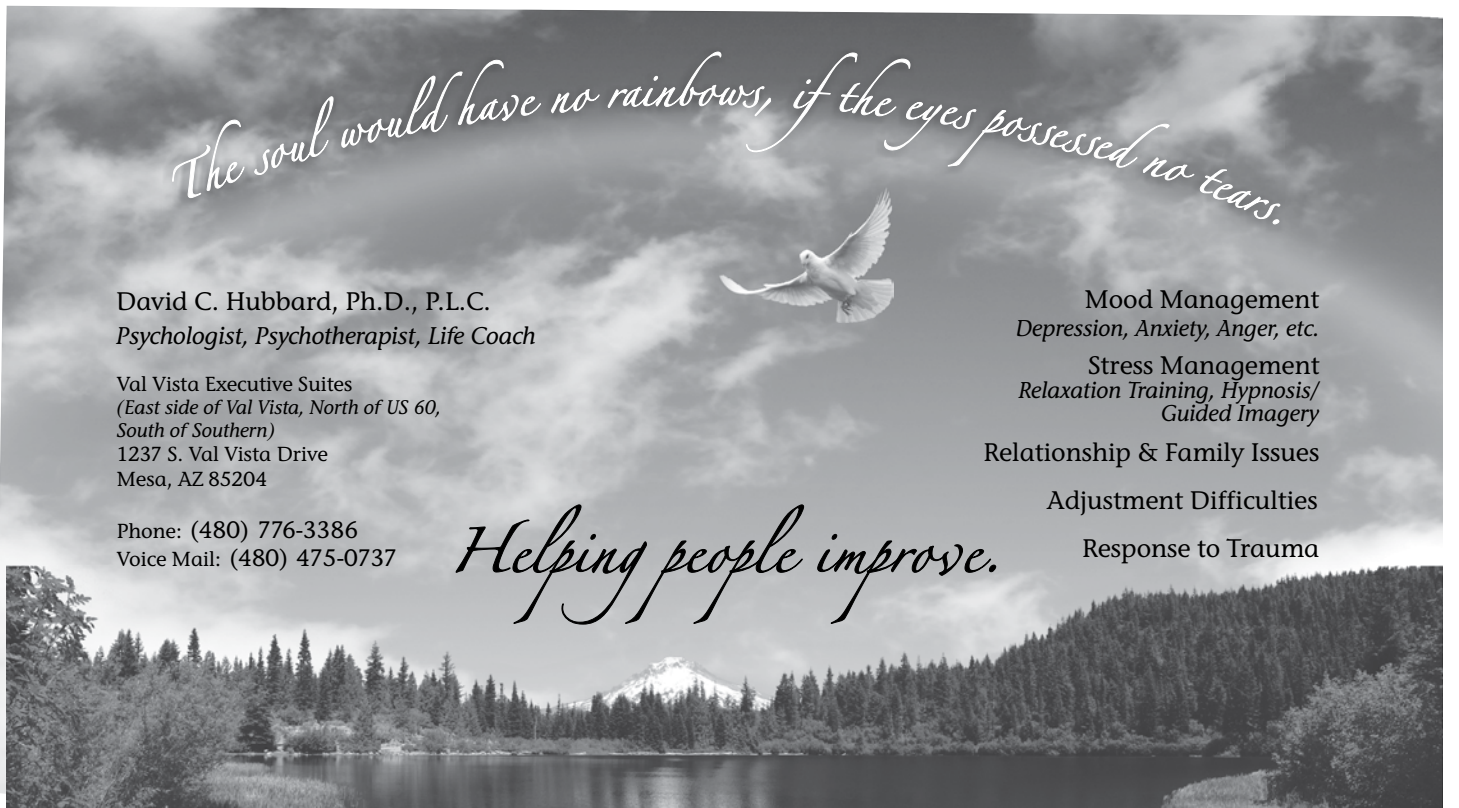
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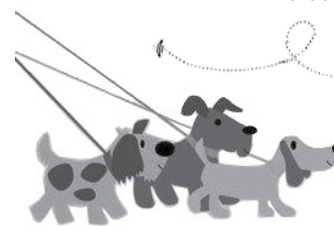
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Cecily Markland
The Beehive

The Big O Tire store in Gilbert not only offers the best tires around, but provides a full range of services as well—all backed by fair and friendly attention to their customers.

Owned and operated by Jim Veater, the store has a solid reputation for its service-oriented, family-friendly atmosphere. Many who come to the Big O store on Baseline and Val Vista are repeat customers, while, others, who come for the first time, are often referred by one of Big O's many satisfied customers.

Jim, a member of the Gilbert 4th Ward, Val Vista Stake, got into the tire business 30 years ago, when he worked at a Big O store in Mesa. Ten years later, he opened his own store at Gilbert and McKellips in Mesa. Then, in 1996, Jim moved over to his current location in Gilbert, at Baseline and Val Vista.

Jim says he has a highly professional and experienced staff running the Big O store operations. Manager Kerry Slaughter has 16 years experience in the tire business. Jim's son, Jacob David (Jake) Veater, has worked for Big O for a number of years and will continue to do so until he is accepted into the nursing program

he's studying for. Jim says Andrew Perez is another great addition to the team. Andrew, who is a senior at ASU, also has a strong background in the business as his father owns a Big O store in Tucson.

"We believe strongly in loyalty, in taking care of our customers and our employees," Jim says, adding that the same quality care goes into every product and service they provide.

"We do alignments, brakes, oil changes. We can fix your car no matter what it needs, and you don't ever have to worry about getting cheated," Jim says.

He adds that they pay particular attention to women, helping take the fear and frustration out of the tire-buying experience. "Over half my customers are women. We take extra special good care of women whether they are buying tires or needing to have their cars serviced," Jim says.

Big O offers value and can beat or match other stores' prices. "It's a myth that others' tires are cheaper," Jim says.

Plus, they offer excellent warranties on their tires. "Big O has always, always had free replacement warranties and road hazard warranties," he says.

At our store, "Customers also can feel



Photo by Cecily Markland

At the Big O tire store in Gilbert, the team of (left to right) Andrew Perez, Jacob David (Jake) Veater, Owner Jim Veater and Manager Kerry Slaughter, create a customer-friendly atmosphere while providing top-quality tire products and a full-range of service, all at competitive prices.

comfortable knowing the owner is available. If a customer has a problem, we're right there," Jim says.

Big O Tires, at 3465 E. Baseline Road (just west of Val Vista) can be reached by calling 480-892-0903. The store is open Monday through Friday 7:30 am until 6 pm and Saturday from 7:30 am to 3:30 pm.

Applications bring Ward and Stake Directories Right to your iPhone

By Dale Baker
The Beehive

Gary Shellabarger and his son, Brian, co-owners of Avikey International, say, they knew others, like them, who "spent a lot of time using their iPhones to call and e-mail people in their wards."

"We thought it would be helpful to have an application that would allow people to download the ward directory right into their phone," says Brian. The father and son team, who have more than 40 years of combined programming experience, went to work and developed the iPhone applications called iWard and iStake.

Brian explains, "The great thing about iWard and iStake is that, unlike a printed ward directory or a directory that you export from the Church Web site, you can update your entire directory as often as you like in a matter of seconds."

One drawback is that it only works on iPhones and iPods. However, Brian says, while developing "some really great stuff for the next few releases of the iPhone version," they're also "working on a version for the Blackberry right now. We might also release a version that runs on WindowsMobile in the near future."

Brian says, in the meantime, "in addition to some really powerful new features related to iWard and iStake, we've got several other applications for the LDS community in the pipeline as well."

Brian is a member of the Hooper Utah Stake and Gary is in the Brigham City Utah Stake.

To learn more about Avikey International's LDS-related products for phones, visit <http://www.avikey.com/products.html>.

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Dos and Don'ts of Church Manners



Rhyme and Reason

By Linda Turley-Hansen

Giving offense with public texting and other such methods of communication can't be excused as a problem of the offended. Manners are always a great idea.

I know you've seen it too: Adults fiddling with their Blackberries or cell phones in church meetings. It's puzzling. The power of example is no secret in parenting or among those who teach the youth, yet over and over I see adults (mostly men) texting or gaming or tweeting or whatever—in church or in other meetings.

But, women are also slipping. While in the Salt Lake City Temple recently, we were warned by the attendant, prior to a session, to turn cells off and leave them in the locker. Then, she confided, "We've actually seen women text during the sessions." What?

While on this subject, why not throw in those who rudely engage in their tech-chatter, while among others in social gatherings. I've had associates stop right in the middle of a sentence, while at lunch or in a meeting, to take a call or text a return message. A nervous apology helps; however, I tend to wonder: "Don't I count?" When my kids do it, I feel the same.

Smart adults and parents develop a set of guidelines in regard to this issue. It's not "rocket science;" so, come up with your own rules. Try this: If you must communicate with someone while in meetings, put the machine on vibrate and then step outside when the call or text comes in to finish your business. When in social gatherings, in fact while in your own home with guests, warn them ahead of time that you may have to excuse yourself to take a call or text. It's a show of respect and it sends a message: "I care about you."

For children, set some rules at home. Pull the young ones in on the process. It makes a great family home evening topic. Let the kids design their own guidelines, for home and in public, and promote positive feedback on the subject. Don't hesitate to take possession of the "toy" when it's misused. It's a known axiom that "little things" grow into big, ugly habits and then, the repercussions.

But, first, mom and dad, it begins with you, in church meetings. If you cannot control your compulsion, maybe counseling is in order. In the meantime, repentance is a very worthwhile exercise. You'll feel better about yourselves and the congregation will like you better, too. When all else fails, take a lesson from Primary children who learn early how to be reverent. Fold your arms. Keep them in that position when the twitch to text takes over. Good luck.

Contact Linda Turley-Hansen at turleyhansen@lindastake.com.



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Company Helps Raise a Modern TITLE OF LIBERTY

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Kathy Pace says her home-based business truly began as an answer to prayer.

Kathy and her husband, Dennis, are the parents of seven children, and have lived in Kanab, Utah, for 16 years. She says Kanab is a “wonderful place to raise a family and to be close to our extended family.” Still, the Paces have been discontent with the fact that Dennis has had to travel for work, being gone most weeks from Sunday night through Thursday.

After years of living with that schedule, Kathy says, “I began praying, searching for a good idea for a business that would allow us to possibly bring Dennis home. I pondered and prayed and tried to be alert and in tune.”

One day, the Sunday School class discussion centered on Captain Moroni.

“When we read that Captain Moroni rent his coat and caused the Title of Liberty to be hoisted, a very strong impression came to me that it was time to raise the Title of Liberty again,” Kathy says.

From that spark, the Pace’s company,

Latter-day Banners was born. The company now offers flags of various sizes, including desktop-size stick flags, along with tapestries, magnets and bumper stickers, all beautifully designed and emblazoned with Captain Moroni’s quote: “In memory of our God, our religion, and freedom, and our peace, our wives and our children.”

Kathy says, almost from the moment she decided to create the modern-day replica, doors opened that helped her produce their top-quality, artistically designed products.

“I had just read a book with artwork of Captain Moroni by Joseph Brickey. I contacted him that Monday and found out that, just that day, he had gotten out of a contract, so he gave us the right to use that image, free of charge,” Kathy says.

“We’re also indebted to Cody Jimenez, who created the sword of truth and shield of faith that appear on the flag,” she says.

Kathy says, “I love to see our flag fly-



Photo courtesy of Kathy Pace

Dennis and Kathy Pace, of Kanab, Utah, who are the owners of Latter-day Banners, say they feel, “This is a calling, to produce, market and fly Moroni’s flag again.”

ing with the American flag.”

She also loves hearing stories about others’ experiences with Latter-day Banners. “We’re getting so many people writing and saying how it has affected them.”

One woman whose husband passed away wanted a flag in time for the funeral; while someone serving a mission in Africa, says at a school for 18 to 30-year-olds, “They raise the flag everyday.”

“We hear a lot of neat stories,” Kathy

says. “It’s such a rewarding project to be involved in because of the way it touches lives.”

“It’s time that we do come forth in strength and stand for these principles that are under attack,” she adds.

Latter-day Banners has already started to expand to include other products with an LDS theme.

To see their complete line, visit www.latterdaybanners.com



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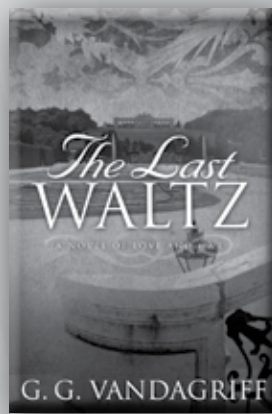
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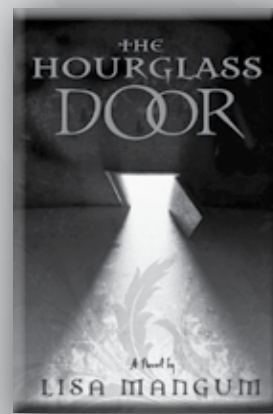
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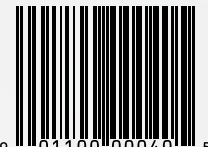
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Mormon Myths

In 1972, President Harold B. Lee spoke in General Conference, making some interesting statements on Church members' gullibility and their tendency to sometimes spread rumors.

He stated: "The first is the spread of rumor and gossip ... which, when once started, gains momentum as each telling becomes more fanciful, until unwittingly those who wish to dwell on the sensational repeat them in firesides, in classes, in Relief Society gatherings and priesthood quorum classes without first verifying the source before becoming a party to causing speculation and discussions that steal time away from the things

that would be profitable and beneficial and enlightening to their souls."

"There is one thing that shocks me," he added. "I have learned, in some instances, that those who have heard of these rumors are disappointed when I tell them they are not so. They seem to have enjoyed believing a rumor without substance of fact. I would earnestly urge that no such idle gossip be spread abroad without making certain as to whether or not it is true." (From the *Ensign*, Jan. 1973, p. 105.)

Even with a prophet's warning, Church members are still apt to pass along stories that simply aren't true, and now we have much easier, faster and far-

reaching ways to spread them—by e-mail and on Web sites and blog posts.

Perhaps you've received an e-mail about a "Jaredite barge" at the bottom of Lake Michigan or the claims that "LDS youth were generals in the war in heaven" or that the LDS Church owns the Coca-Cola company.

Never take such stories at face value. Check sources carefully. Even photographs can be altered or misleading.

Often statements are attributed to Church leaders. In 2004, the First Presidency issued a letter concerning this: "We encourage members of the Church to never teach or pass on such statements without verifying that they are from approved Church sources, such as official statements, communications, and publications." See the entire letter at: www.ldschurchnews.com/articles/45622/Statements-attributed-to-Church-leaders.html.

A few Web sites dedicated to dispelling rampant Mormon myths can help you "check the facts."

The Shields Web site at www.shields-research.org/Hoaxes/Hoaxes.htm lists LDS-related hoaxes and legends, non-LDS hoaxes (but commonly shared among LDS members) and inspirational

stories that may possibly be true, but are often modified and changed. The site explains, for example, that when the Chicago Tribune published an article about a mysterious object found on the bottom of Lake Michigan, for some reason, an LDS reader quickly suggest it was a "Jaredite barge" and messages were circulated around the Internet.

The FAIRMormon Wiki page at http://en.fairmormon.org/Rumors,_hoaxes,_and_urban_legends refers to the persistent rumor that President Boyd K. Packer said, "LDS youth were generals in the war in heaven." As the Web site points out, President Packer was quoted in the Church News (28 April 2001) saying, "I did not make that statement. I do not believe that statement." Many more claims are examined on this Web site with a fact-checked response.

Snopes.com is a general myth-busting site that debunks many Mormon myths, including that Coca-Cola is owned by the Church.

Editor's Note: This column is designed to provide Beehive readers with timesaving direction and ideas for safely and easily surfing the Internet. Email comments or suggestions to: Sadair@cox.net.

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A local woman is challenging E.V. people to a competition to lose weight and get healthy.

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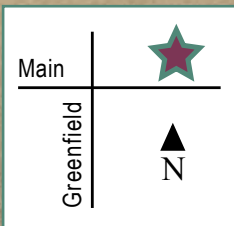
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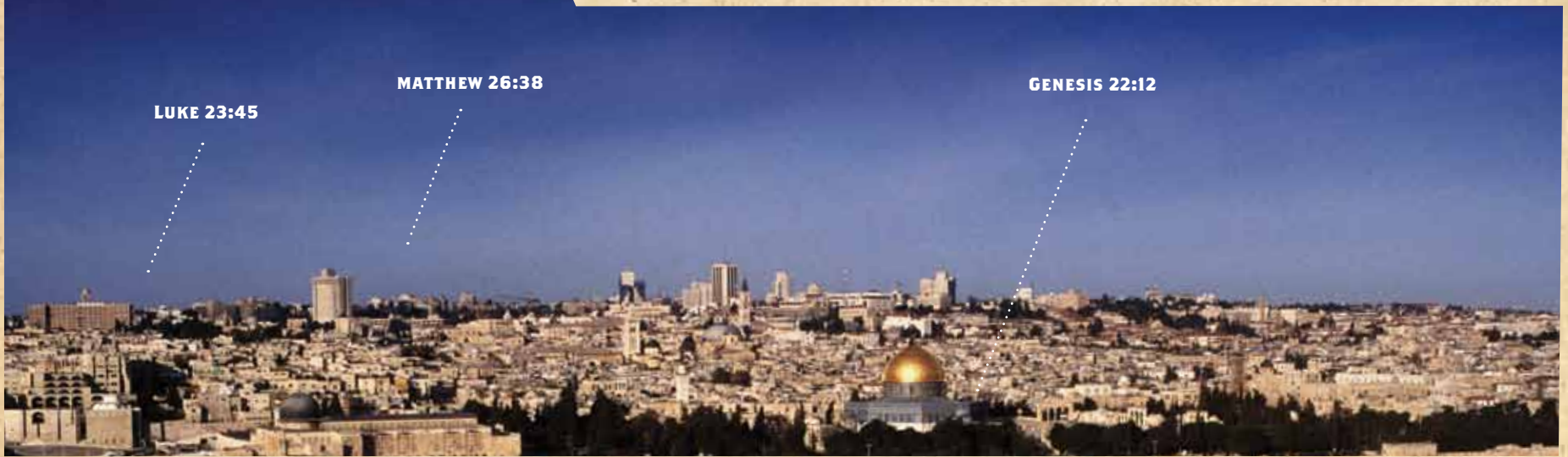


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Cox Printing

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Russell Taylor - BYU Graduate

LasVegasRealEstate@mac.com
702-525-2266

The Gould Group – Keller Williams

pennygould@cox.net
www.thegouldgroup.org
480-600-3663

RESTAURANTS

Pete's Fish & Chips

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Mesa, AZ
480-964-7242

Pete's Fish & Chips Corp. Office

203 N. MacDonald
Mesa, AZ 85201
480-962-7992
480-577-9053
www.petesfishandchips.com

Rosa's Mexican Grill

NW corner – University & Mesa Dr.
Mesa, AZ
480-964-5451

SWIM SCHOOL

Hubbard Family Swim School

Kathy@hubbardswim.com
www.hubbardswim.com
602-971-4044

TELEVISION

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Mesa, AZ 85213
480-924-1151

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801-734-9345

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LDS.Travel

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